



**Lowick and Holy Island C of E First Schools**

# **Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy**

<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Governing Body Resources Committee</b>
<b>Signed by</b>	     <b>(Chair)</b>
<b>Date of review:</b>	<b>September 2018</b>
<b>Date of next review</b>	<b>Autumn term 2019</b>

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Safeguarding is defined as protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health and/or development, ensuring that children grow up in the provision of safe and effective care and taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.

This Child Protection Policy forms part of a suite of documents and policies which relate to the safeguarding responsibilities of the school.

In particular this policy should be read in conjunction with the Safer Recruitment Policy, Behaviour Policy, Physical Intervention Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Code of Conduct/Staff Behaviour Policy, Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation (Prevent) Policy and ICT Acceptable Usage Policy.

<b>Purpose of a Child Protection Policy</b>	<p>To inform staff, parents, volunteers and governors about the school's responsibilities for safeguarding children.</p> <p>To enable everyone to have a clear understanding of how these responsibilities should be carried out.</p>
<b>Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedures</b>	<p>The school follows the procedures established by the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board; a guide to procedure and practice for all agencies in Northumberland working with children and their families.</p>
<b>School Staff &amp; Volunteers</b>	<p>All school and college staff have a responsibility to provide a safe environment in which children can learn.</p> <p>School staff and volunteers are particularly well placed to observe outward signs of abuse, changes in behaviour and failure to develop because they have daily contact with children.</p> <p>All school staff will receive appropriate safeguarding children training (which is updated regularly – Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board advises every 3 years), so that they are knowledgeable and aware of their role in the early recognition of the indicators of abuse or neglect and of the appropriate procedures to follow. It is a requirement that the Designated Safeguarding Lead receives training every two years.</p> <p>Temporary staff and volunteers will be made aware of the safeguarding policies and procedures by the Designated Senior Person.</p>
<b>Mission Statement for</b>	<p>Establish and maintain an environment where children feel secure, are</p>

## **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

encouraged to talk, and are listened to when they have a worry or concern.

Establish and maintain an environment where school staff and volunteers feel safe, are encouraged to talk and are listened to when they have concerns about the safety and well being of a child.

Ensure children know that there are adults in the school whom they can approach if they are worried.

Ensure that children who have been abused will be supported in line with a child protection plan, where deemed necessary.

Include opportunities in the curriculum for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

Contribute to the five outcomes which are key to children's wellbeing:

- be healthy
- stay safe
- enjoy and achieve
- make a positive contribution
- achieve economic wellbeing

Children will be taught about safeguarding, including online, through teaching and learning opportunities, as part of providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

Staff members working with children are advised to maintain an attitude of 'it could happen here' where safeguarding is concerned. When concerned about the welfare of a child, staff members should always act in the interests of the child.

## **Implementation, Monitoring and Review of the Child Protection Policy**

The policy will be reviewed annually by the governing body. It will be implemented through the school's induction and training programme, and as part of day to day practice. Compliance with the policy will be monitored by the Designated Safeguarding Lead and through staff performance measures.

## **2. STATUTORY FRAMEWORK**

In order to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, the school will act in accordance with the following legislation and guidance:

- The Children Act 1989
- The Children Act 2004
- Education Act 2002 (section 175)
- Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedures (Electronic)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (DFE 2018)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education: information for all school and college staff (DFE 2018) – APPENDIX 2
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2015)
- The Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005
- Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Section 26)

Working Together to Safeguard Children (DfE 2016) requires all schools to follow the procedures for protecting children from abuse which are established by the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board.

Schools are also expected to ensure that they have appropriate procedures in place for responding to situations in which they believe that a child has been abused or are at risk of abuse - these procedures should also cover circumstances in which a member of staff is accused of, or suspected of, abuse.

The school will also follow guidance in relation the specific safeguarding issues outlined in Appendix 2. This will include the Prevent Duty Guidance 2015, in the exercise of their functions, to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism. Furthermore Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) will place a statutory duty upon **teachers, along with social workers and healthcare professionals, to report to the police** where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18.

Furthermore

Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE September 2018) places the following responsibilities on all schools:

- Schools should be aware of and follow the procedures established by the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board
- Staff should be alert to signs of abuse and know to whom they should report any concerns or suspicions
- Schools should have procedures (of which all staff are aware) for handling suspected cases of abuse of pupils, including procedures to be followed if a member of staff is accused of abuse, or suspected of abuse

- A Designated Safeguarding Lead should have responsibility for co-ordinating action within the school and liaising with other agencies.
- Staff with the designated safeguarding lead should undergo updated child protection training annually. All staff should have annual safeguarding updates.

Keeping Children Safe in Education (DfE September 2018) also states:

**Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure there is an effective child protection policy in place together with a staff behaviour policy (code of conduct). Both should be provided to all staff – including temporary staff and volunteers – on induction. The child protection policy should describe procedures which are in accordance with government guidance and refer to locally agreed inter-agency procedures put in place by the NSCB, be updated annually, and be available publicly either via the school or college website or by other means.**

### **3. THE DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD**

**Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that the school designates an appropriate senior member of staff to take lead responsibility for child protection. This person should have the status and authority within the school to carry out the duties of the post including committing resources and, where appropriate, supporting and directing other staff.**

The Designated Safeguarding Lead for Child Protection in this school is:

NAME: Rebecca Simpson  
(Also our E-Safety Co-ordinator).

In the absence/unavailability of the DSL Mrs Carolyn Strangeways will act as the Deputy Safeguarding Lead.

**The broad areas of responsibility for the designated safeguarding lead are:**

#### **Managing referrals**

Refer all cases of suspected abuse to the local authority children's social care and:

- Police (cases where a crime may have been committed).
- Act as a source of support, advice and expertise to staff on matters of safety and safeguarding and when deciding whether to make a referral by liaising with relevant agencies

#### **Training**

- The designated safeguarding lead should receive appropriate training carried out every year in order to:

- Understand the assessment process for providing early help and intervention, for example through locally agreed common and shared assessment processes such as early help assessments
- Have a working knowledge of how local authorities conduct a child protection case conference and a child protection review conference and be able to attend and contribute to these effectively when required to do so
- Ensure each member of staff has access to and understands the school's child protection policy and procedures, especially new and part time staff
- Be alert to the specific needs of children in need, those with special educational needs and young carers
- Be able to keep detailed, accurate, secure written records of concerns and referrals
- Obtain access to resources and attend any relevant or refresher training courses
- Encourage a culture of listening to children and taking account of their wishes and feelings, among all staff, in any measures the school or college may put in place to protect them

### **Raising Awareness**

- The designated safeguarding lead should ensure the school policies are known and used appropriately:
- Ensure the school's child protection policy is reviewed annually and the procedures and implementation are updated and reviewed regularly, and work with governing bodies regarding this
- Ensure the child protection policy is available publicly and parents are aware of the fact that referrals about suspected abuse or neglect may be made and the role of the school or college in this
- Link with the local NSCB to make sure staff are aware of training opportunities and the latest local policies on safeguarding
- Where children leave the school ensure their child protection file is copied for any new school or college as soon as possible but transferred separately from the main pupil file

#### **4. THE GOVERNING BODY**

Governing bodies must ensure that they comply with their duties under legislation. They must also have regard to this guidance to ensure that the policies, procedures and training in their schools or colleges are effective and comply with the law at all times.

The nominated governor for child protection is:

NAME: Robert O'Rourke

In particular the Governing Body must ensure:

- The responsibilities placed on governing bodies and proprietors include:
- their contribution to inter-agency working, which includes providing a coordinated offer of early help when additional needs of children are identified
- ensuring that an effective child protection policy is in place, together with a staff behaviour policy
- appointing a designated safeguarding lead who should undergo child protection training every two years
- prioritising the welfare of children and young people and creating a culture where staff are confident to challenge senior leaders over any safeguarding concerns
- making sure that children are taught about how to keep themselves safe.

#### **5. SCHOOL PROCEDURES - STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES**

If any member of staff is concerned about a child he or she must inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The member of staff must record information regarding the concerns on the same day. The recording must be a clear, precise, factual account of the observations – see file in main school office.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide whether the concerns should be referred to Children's Services. If it is decided to make a referral to Children's Services this will be discussed with the parents, unless to do so would place the child at further risk of harm.



Particular attention will be paid to the attendance and development of any child about whom the school has concerns, or who has been identified as being the subject of a child protection plan and a written record will be kept.

If a pupil who is/or has been the subject of a child protection plan changes school, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will inform the social worker responsible for the case and transfer the appropriate records to the Designated Safeguarding Lead at the receiving school, in a secure manner, and separate from the child's academic file.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead is responsible for making the senior leadership team aware of trends in behaviour that may affect pupil welfare. If necessary, training will be arranged.

As a person who works with children, staff have a duty to refer safeguarding concerns to the designated safeguarding lead for child protection.

However if:

- concerns are not taken seriously by an organisation or
- action to safeguard the child is not taken by professionals and
- the child is considered to be at continuing risk of harm

Then Staff should speak to a DSL in their school or contact Northumberland Children's Services (including out of hours) on 01289 334000.

If, at any point, there is a risk of immediate serious harm to a child a referral should be made to children's services immediately. Anybody can make a referral. If the child's situation does not appear to be improving the staff member with concerns should press for re-consideration. Concerns should always lead to help for the child at some point.

If the allegations raised by the staff member are against other children the school should follow the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board Procedures Manual - Children Who Abuse Others.

## **Mandatory Reporting Duty**

Section 5B of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as inserted by section 74 of the Serious Crime Act 2015) will place a statutory duty upon **teachers, along with social workers and healthcare professionals, to report to the police** where they discover (either through disclosure by the victim or visual evidence) that FGM appears to have been carried out on a girl under 18. Those failing to report such cases will face disciplinary sanctions.

From 1 July 2015 specified authorities, including all schools as defined in the summary of this guidance, are subject to a duty under section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 ("the CTSA 2015"), in the exercise of their functions, to *have "due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism"*. This duty is known as the **Prevent** duty – Tackling Extremism and Radicalisation. Schools should have clear procedures in place for

protecting children at risk of radicalisation. The Prevent duty builds on existing local partnership arrangements. For example, governing bodies of schools should ensure that their safeguarding arrangements take into account the policies and procedures of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs).

In addition Schools must ensure that children are safe from terrorist and extremist material when accessing the internet in schools. Schools should ensure that suitable filtering is in place. It is also important that schools teach pupils about online safety more generally.

## 6. WHEN TO BE CONCERNED

All staff and volunteers should be aware that the main categories of abuse are:

- Physical abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Neglect

All staff and volunteers should be concerned about a child if he/she presents with indicators of possible significant harm – **see Appendix 1 for details.**

Generally, in an abusive relationship the child may:

- Appear frightened of the parent/s or other household members e.g. siblings or others outside of the home
- Act in a way that is inappropriate to her/his age and development (full account needs to be taken of different patterns of development and different ethnic groups)
- Display insufficient sense of 'boundaries', lack stranger awareness
- Appear wary of adults and display 'frozen watchfulness'

## 7. DEALING WITH A DISCLOSURE

If a child discloses that he or she has been abused in some way, the member of staff / volunteer should:

- Listen to what is being said without displaying shock or disbelief
- Accept what is being said
- Allow the child to talk freely

- Reassure the child, but not make promises which it might not be possible to keep
- Not promise confidentiality – it might be necessary to refer to Children's Services
- Reassure him or her that what has happened is not his or her fault
- Stress that it was the right thing to tell
- Listen, only asking questions when necessary to clarify
- Not criticise the alleged perpetrator
- Explain what has to be done next and who has to be told
- Make a written record (see Record Keeping)
- Pass the information to the Designated Safeguarding Lead without delay

## **Support**

Dealing with a disclosure from a child, and safeguarding issues can be stressful. The member of staff/volunteer should, therefore, consider seeking support for him/herself and discuss this with the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

## **8. CONFIDENTIALITY**

Safeguarding children raises issues of confidentiality that must be clearly understood by all staff/volunteers in schools.

- All staff in schools, both teaching and non-teaching staff, have a responsibility to share relevant information about the protection of children with other professionals, particularly the investigative agencies (Children's Services and the Police).
- If a child confides in a member of staff/volunteer and requests that the information is kept secret, it is important that the member of staff/volunteer tell the child in a manner appropriate to the child's age/stage of development that they cannot promise complete confidentiality – instead they must explain that they may need to pass information to other professionals to help keep the child or other children safe.
- Staff/volunteers who receive information about children and their families in the course of their work should share that information only within appropriate professional contexts.

## **9. COMMUNICATION WITH PARENTS**

Lowick and Holy Island C. of E. First Schools will:

Ensure the child protection policy is available publicly either via the school website or by other means.

Parents should be informed prior to referral, unless it is considered to do so might place the child at increased risk of significant harm by:

- The behavioural response it prompts e.g. a child being subjected to abuse, maltreatment or threats / forced to remain silent if alleged abuser informed;
- Leading to an unreasonable delay;
- Leading to the risk of loss of evidential material;
- Placing a member of staff from any agency at risk.

Ensure that parents have an understanding of the responsibilities placed on the school and staff for safeguarding children.

## **10. RECORD KEEPING**

When a child has made a disclosure, the member of staff/volunteer should:

- Record as soon as possible after the conversation. Use the school record of concern sheet wherever possible.
- Don't destroy the original notes in case they are needed by a court
- Record the date, time, place and any noticeable non-verbal behaviour and the words used by the child
- Indicate the position of any injuries on the diagram – in file in office
- Record statements and observations rather than interpretations or assumptions

All records need to be given to the Designated Safeguarding Lead promptly. No copies should be retained by the member of staff or volunteer.

The Designated Safeguarding Lead will ensure that all safeguarding records are managed in accordance with the Education (Pupil Information) (England) Regulations 2005.

## **11. ALLEGATIONS INVOLVING SCHOOL STAFF/VOLUNTEERS**

An allegation is any information which indicates that a member of staff/volunteer may have:

- Behaved in a way that has, or may have harmed a child
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against/related to a child
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way which indicates s/he would pose a risk of harm if they work regularly or closely with children

This applies to any child the member of staff/volunteer has contact within their personal, professional or community life.

To reduce the risk of allegations, all staff should be aware of safer working practice and should be familiar with the guidance contained in the school code of conduct or Government document '*Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children and Young People in Education Settings*'.

The person to whom an allegation is first reported should take the matter seriously and keep an open mind. S/he should not investigate or ask leading questions if seeking clarification; it is important not to make assumptions. Confidentiality should not be promised and the person should be advised that the concern will be shared on a 'need to know' basis only.

Actions to be taken include making an immediate written record of the allegation using the informant's words - including time, date and place where the alleged incident took place, brief details of what happened, what was said and who was present. This record should be signed, dated and immediately passed on to the Head Teacher.

If the concerns are about the Head Teacher, then the Chair of Governors should be contacted. The Chair of Governors in this school is:

NAME: Robert O'Rourke

The recipient of an allegation must **not** unilaterally determine its validity, and failure to report it in accordance with procedures is a potential disciplinary matter.

The Head Teacher will not investigate the allegation itself, or take written or detailed statements, but will assess whether it is necessary to refer the concern to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO):

LADO (Adam Hall – 01670 623979)

If the allegation meets any of the three criteria set out at the start of this section, contact should always be made with the Local Authority Designated Officer without delay.

If it is decided that the allegation meets the threshold for safeguarding, this will take place in accordance with the Northumberland Safeguarding Children Board Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedures.

If it is decided that the allegation does not meet the threshold for safeguarding, it will be handed back to the employer for consideration via the school's internal procedures.

The Head Teacher should, as soon as possible, **following briefing** from the Local Authority Designated Officer inform the subject of the allegation.

**For further information see:**

NSCB Inter-agency Child Protection and Safeguarding Children Procedures (Electronic)

Section 4.1 [Managing Allegations Against Adults who work with Children and Young People](#)

## Contacts

Advice Area	School Contact(s)
Discussion about a CP or child welfare referral	Through school to children's social care teams: Alnwick – 01665 626830 Ashington – 01670 629200 Berwick – 01289 334000 Disabled Children's Team – 01670 516131 Leaving Care Team – 01670 714925
Advice on the operation of CP/Safeguarding Procedures (how to refer & where)	Steve Day – Safeguarding Standards manager & Principal Social Worker – 01670 624037 or Independent Reviewing Officers – 01670 623965
Lead roles in relation to responding to allegations against staff (including those not employed by the school)	Adam Hall- (as LADO for all allegations against professionals who work with children) – 01670 623979
CP Allegations relating to school transport	Adam Hall LADO – 01670 623126
Model CP Policy for schools	Jane Walker 01670 622734
Policy on use of restraint in schools	Chris Farley – 01670 624184
Recruitment & Selection/Vetting & Barring	Suzanne Hendey/Ian Harbottle/Hugh Cadwallader
Co-ordination of Training Requirements for Designated staff (CP)	Anne Lambert – 01670 623159
MAPPA – Risk Management re individuals who may pose a risk to children	Patrick Boyle/MAPPA – 01670 624035
Monitoring/Quality Assurance re operation of schools safeguarding arrangements	Claire Williams (SIP)
Children Missing from Education	01670 624184